BANGLADESH OBSERVER
9th NOVEMBER 1990

Clash in Khulna village: 40 injured

Khulna Office

KHULNA Nov. 8:—At least forty villagers including some women were injured when a crowd of over two thousand villagers, mostly agriculturists, clashed with a group of people stated to be armed supporters of an owner of a shrimp farm at village Harikhola under Deluti Unions of Paikgacha upazila of Khulna district on Wednesday according to reports reaching here.

Five of the seriously wounded villagers including woman have been admitted to Khulna Sadar Hospital and private clinics in the city. Many were injured in bomb blasts and gun-shots which were reportedly used in the clash that sparked off following a united resistance by the villagers against the setting up of an eclosure (Gher) for shrimp cultivation by the owner on a crop land covered by a WAPDA embankment.

The villagers have long been complaining against setting up of enclosers on crop lands as it causes severe damage to the crops and lands due to heavy deposit of saline water on the soil.

Noor Ali Gazi one of the seriously wounded persons admitted to local sadar hospital whom I interviewed today called that two women identified as Rupvan and Karuna wives of Kalu Gazi and Bharat Chandra respectively were found missing after the clash aid probably died of gun shot injuries received during the clash. He suspected that the dead women were carried away by the armed supporters of the owner shrim enclosue (gher) and allegedly thrown in the river.

The chairman of Deluti Union Mr. Samaresh Halder who accompanied the injured person to Khulna also alleged that two women have been killed in the clash. They could not trace them after the clash.

Meanwhile the Additional Superintendent of Police (HQ) Khulna when contacted, said that he heard of a an incident in the village at Paikgacha Upazila and expressed his inability to say details of the incident.

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He however said that the Superintendent of Police had already gone to the place of occurrence. He also could not confirm deaths or number of persons injured in the clash due to lack of information.

10 arrested

The Superintendent of Police, Khulna who returned to Khulna after visiting the place of occurrence said that 10 persons were arrested by the police in connection with the clash that took place over the setting up of a shrimp farm in the area.

According to his verson, 20 persons were injured in the clash and one woman named Karuna, wife of one Bharat was found missing.

Another woman Rupvan, wife of Kalu Gazi who earlier reported missing was traced and admitted to local upazila hospital with injuries.

The SP told that adequate police forces have been deployed in the area.